

Arc Eight: Stable Days?

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Lazy Dungeon Master - volume 8: Stable Days?

written by Supana Onikage

Translated by ziru

Labor Shortage

The season flew by and it became Summer.

I was in my room in the [Dancing Doll's Pavilion]... I may be the one who made the inn, but it was a comparatively good room.

When I looked outside my room's window, I could see the pleasant blue sky. ... It's seriously hot. While thinking that it still had four seasons despite being another world, I stuck my feet into a wooden bucket filled with water. Aaah, this cool water feels so good... Well, it probably won't stay that cold for long though.

It's been several months since I came to this world. Somehow or another, I've become a dungeon master and I think that I've done a pretty good job working... Think I'm done working though. I made a toll fee mechanism for the tunnel I went through great pains to make through Tsuia Mountain. With that, even though I've finally been able to get easy income... now I'm busy managing the inn's operations and profits from the toll. Oh right, maybe it's time to get some more people? More people to use for the inn that is.

As for the dungeon's primary business, I decided that golems that sometimes carried knifes would wander around the second and third floors that were the labyrinth areas. Of course, the knifes were golem blades. The knife magic sword improved its sharpness by vibrating the magical power that filled it. People could get the knife magic sword if they managed to safely beat it. There's still just five of them though.

Also, I've added iron golem spawners. Though they cost 50,000 DP each, thanks to Haku-san coming over a few times to visit, there are now iron golems wandering around past the riddle area. Meaning, she gave me a huge payment in DP for them. Ah, there's also one in the labyrinth area that occasionally clashes with adventurers. They're hard to defeat so people usually run away when they encounter them though.

Thanks to finagling out such an outcome, today there are three parties (one is a beginner party that came to gain fighting experience against goblins) in the labyrinth.

For the riddle area on the fourth floor... no one's solved it even though it's been found. One party was just barely able to reach it by chance, but since they were exhausted, they turned back while wary of traps. After that, there have been people getting incredibly irritated after losing their way in the labyrinth, but no one else has been able to reach it again... Looks like people still haven't figured out that that correct route changes at fixed times yet.

The income we've gotten from people coming to the inn and tunnel is DP and money. Thanks to that, my current lifestyle has gotten pretty easy. I can even turn money into DP. That's why I'm just lazing in my room.

Therefore, I think I'm going to just sleep in my room all day today and not do anything.

Maybe I should put an air conditioner in my room... actually, maybe there's some kind of life magic that'd let me spend my time in Summer comfortably? Wait, come to think of it the only life magic I've been using is [Cleanup] huh... Even though I went to such great lengths to learn the magic skill, it feels like I've just been using [Create Golem].

That's somewhat sacrilegious... right, let's replace the water in this wood bucket with water from the low class water-type magic [Water].

I threw the water from the wooden bucket out of the window.

While anxious, I input the chant as according to the scroll into my head. Fumu fumu... [Water, form a small sphere] huh? ... Let's mix it up a bit.

“Cold water, form a smallish sphere. [Water].”

I felt a little of my magical power drain away as a sphere of water appeared in front of me. Then, it fell into the wooden bucket with a splash as planned. Yep, it's cold.

It's the first time I've used a magic other than [Create Golem] in a while now. Though as expected, magic is convenient.

“Kehma, mine too~”

It was my partner who was also in my room for some reason, the dungeon core, Rokuko. Oi, this is my room. I have made it pretty wonderful though. I exchanged the water in Rokuko's bucket with cold water by chanting again.

“Aah~, Kehma's magic really is strange~. It doesn't feel so nice and cool when

me or Meat does it!"

"It's not changed normally after all."

"It can't be you know? Normally."

I thought there'd be a language analysis done on the language's patterns or something, but according to Rokuko there's no one other than me, who has the translation cheat, that can modify magic. Rokuko doesn't really know about many people since she doesn't leave far from her dungeon core though... wait, me, my slaves Meat and Ichika... isn't that just three people? Ah, there's Haksan too. Dungeon Core No. 89's turned into our dungeon's god of fortune. Imperial Capital Bigshot-san.

"Well, with her relationship with the hotel recently, hey, I've gotten to know the guild's Receptionist-san too! S-Siliana-san."

I probably wouldn't be that wrong to consider her as another.

Our relationship with the guild isn't bad. Although the guild's branch office was mostly built by now, Receptionist-san still eats here, as well as bathing here once a week. Looks like she likes it a lot.

Since the place where the guild is located is part of the dungeon's territory, we get a bit over 80 DP per day from Receptionist-san. It's really delicious. We'd get twice as much if she stayed in a locked room though...

"Goshujin-sama, please replenish the food."

Meat, who was in charge of taking food to the dining room, entered... it's troublesome, but there's no choice but to do it. I took out some side dish breads and low quality dishes and passed them to Meat.

Meat stowed the dishes I handed her away into her space-time magic, [Storage]. She'd take them out in the kitchen to give to guests. Meals you could get in convenience stores and family restaurants in Japan were very popular in this world. There's even been adventurers these days that purposely came for the food.

... Rather, it's fine even if Rokuko bought them with DP, but for some reason it's a higher quality when I do it. I wonder if it's because of a difference in knowledge?

Oh? Meat dropped one of them while I was handing them to her. Fortunately,

since the side dish breads came wrapped in plastic, it wasn't much of a deal even if they dropped on the floor.

"... Your complexion doesn't look that good. Are you okay?"

I finally noticed that Meat's complexion looked off. I didn't notice sooner because she normally has beautiful tanned skin, like she went suntanning. It would've been easier to tell if she was fair-skinned like Rokuko though.

"Eh, ah... I'm... fine, I think."

Meat was a dog eared beastkin, so her body was strong compared to normal humans. However, she was still a child that might not even be in the double digits age-wise. I put my hand to Meat's forehead. Sweat was sticking to her skin... and she was terribly hot.

"... Go rest!"

"Hya—... eh—, y-yes..."

I laid Meat down on the futon and went out to the dining room for her.

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Meat is fatigued, huh. It's probably from overworking along with the heat. I'll have her rest properly.

Well, I realized something.

... We have a labor shortage!

Well yeah, I mean I've vaguely noticed it already. The number of guests we've been getting has gradually increased lately.

First, there's one person at the reception. Then, there's another person in the dining area. Those two people are absolutely necessary to keep the inn running. We only have four people, me included, to manage the dungeon and inn.

That isn't enough people. Moreover, we'd need two more at the least. Since physical labor can be taken care of by the golems, we basically just need humans to take care of our visitors.

Since there's things like the life magic's [Cleanup], washing and cleaning in this world is overwhelmingly easy, but serving customers still uses up stamina and willpower.

I was serving tables today instead of Meat, but even though it's different from town restaurants and we only had a few customers, Meat was amazing at managing the dining room by herself. Seriously.

I mean, there's practically been no complaints about the dining room. Though Ichika was the one running the reception desk where complaints were received, and Meat's a child, a slave, and a child, you could count the number of complaints on a single hand. Additionally, it hasn't even happened again after the first time.

I was just serving tables today but the number of complaints has already risen a level. Come on, what the heck? It settled down when I asked Rokuko to lend a hand, but maybe it's that. These guys are just lolicons.

I keep forgetting about it and am not really conscious of it, but when magic is used, magical power—I guess something like mental stamina—gets used as well. Meat uses [Storage] to take the dishes out, so it's probably a big burden on her. I carelessly overlooked it since she's been working with a healthy face, but she must have been incredibly tired every day. Even with that... I've been using Meat as my hug pillow when I sleep. Even then she wouldn't show off an unpleasant expression and would just smile... it's fine to say something even if you're my slave, you super girl.

“... Goshujin-sama...?”

“Oh, did I wake you up? How are you doing?”

I gently stroked Meat's head. Her dog tail wagged happily under the towel blanket she was laying under. She was obviously happy.

“I'm... fine already.”

“Keep sleeping. You don't have to be my hug pillow today.”

“... Ugu—... b-but, this is Goshujin-sama's sleeping spot...”

“Don't worry, there are other rooms open. Thankfully, this is an inn.”

Like that, I tucked Meat in.

Lonely since she can't work, she really is just like a big faithful dog.

I mean, right. I still haven't set up proper vacation days yet. I've just been sleeping when I feel like it, and though I've told Ichika and Meat to do whatever they wanted when there're no guests, the number of days like that have

decreased recently... rather, it's more like we have guests every day now. To add to that, Meat's been working as my hug pillow. She has no holidays... and though I've offered the daily necessities, since they don't really have salaries either, they've basically been working nonstop with no pay.

Due to all of that, we have an overwhelming labor shortage. For Meat and Ichika's sleep, as well as mine, I need to do something...

Let's Procure Some New Employees

Since Meat returned to being my hug pillow before I noticed it, she probably recovered from lying down all night. Looks like she slipped in while I was asleep, what a zealous worker. She even paid attention to changing the comforter out for a towel blanket so that it wouldn't be hot.

Though I said we had a labor shortage, this inn that's also a dungeon has a lot of secrets.

Like how we use the dungeon core to light up Rokuko's room. We can't hire standard employees. So then, what do we do...? We get another one like Ichika. But we probably won't find as good a bargain as Ichika again. But but! We need more employees that can stay and house-sit.

With the amount of people we have right now, I can't even take anyone out to the human village. Despite going to such great pains to open that tunnel, Ichika can't go visit her hometown, Pavuera. I've gotten a few goods from guests using the tunnel from Pavuera though.

... Even though they'll hand us stuff like fish while saying, "Please cook this!" ... It's not like I can cook.

And then there's the mysterious chef that cooks for the inn. Our setting has him named Ex Travagant-san. The setting has no use though since we don't even have that praiseworthy person called a chef though...

Seems like Ichika's only interested in cooking to eat it... Ah, she made some grilled fish. Then I ate it myself.

Right, our next employee should really be someone that knows how to cook. If they can reproduce dishes that we serve using DP, the inn can continue running even if Rokuko and I aren't here so long as there are ingredients. Sooner or later Rokuko's probably going to want to go and visit Haku-san.

"And so, this time I'm going to summon an employee~"

"Summon an employee... ah. A human-type monster that can mimicry!"

A monster like a [Succubus], as in like Haku-san's butler, Chloe. In other words,

an intelligent human-type, and if possible I'd prefer a female-type monster that's good at cooking and has beautiful legs.

Furthermore, male-type ones are no good since this dungeon's sponsor (Hakusan) said so and it's not like I want to have a harem.

"It's pricey though you know?"

"Yeah... it might be cheaper than a slave once all's said and done though. Even after subtracting the amount of DP it'd take to teach them [Storage], it'd be cheaper."

Then maybe I should purposely try to make it an expensive human-type monster? That way if the monster is intelligent, it might be able to use DP. Eh, maybe human-type monsters are expensive because they're able to use DP?

"I see! If it's a monster that can use DP I can go out as well huh!"

"That's right... And because of that, maybe a succubus is the best way to go? Their war potential is reassuring and they have good abilities too."

"Chloe set a good precedent for them, so there's a sense of security... but, what about like Redra? A red dragon. They can look like a human even though they're a dragon by using their human form technique."

"I won't argue their strength, but we don't have enough DP for a dragon that can use a human form. Even Redra still had her tail. And I'd prefer to get two or three people if we could..."

"We wouldn't have enough for succubi either then you know?"

Still, it was to the point that it'd use practically all of our DP savings. I don't really think it's a problem since we have a steady income now though.

"Oh right. Phoenixes can learn how to have a human form. It's still an egg though! Wait, didn't you promise to get it hatched by that dragon breath a long time ago?"

"... Craaap, completely forgot."

I wouldn't be able to use the phoenix egg for raw materials anymore if it hatched, so let's do it after I get a bit more from it... is what I decided to do. In other words, I completely forgot about it after setting it up with the automatic egg smashing golem.

"... There's probably plenty of materials now so let's go get it hatched?"

“Kehma? You haven’t perhaps been breaking the egg while it’s unhatched have you?”

“D-don’t say something so scary.”

While I was trembling, I went back to the topic.

“That aside, isn’t it better for it to be cheap and convenient? Ah. Fighting strength isn’t needed right?”

“Yeah. It’s more important that they can look after the inn than be able to fight...”

“How about this then?”

As for what Rokuko showed me, a [Vampire]... wait, isn’t it both really strong and really expensive?

“I didn’t know there were so many variations of vampires... see? This one at the bottom is so cheap!”

“It’s a lesser one so its intelligence might be a problem, how about the common one... ooh, it’s still cheap? 30,000 DP huh, with the DP we have now... it’s not that bad.”

It might be a little painful, but there’d be no problem if we converted our cash earnings into DP. Recently we’ve been getting more than 500 DP a day, so we wouldn’t have any problems even if we used it all.

By the way, there’s one over 1,000,000 DP. It says something like true ancestor...

“... But don’t vampires turn into ash if they’re hit by sunlight?”

“There’s a lot of customization options you know? Look at this! It even says sunlight immune!”

“Oi oi, isn’t that expensive?”

“That’s why it’s optional!”

The offensive capability option... 100 was the upper limit, with 0 being the worst. The DP cost was practically synchronized with it.

“Shouldn’t we try out the offensive capability option at 0?”

... Taking the sunlight immunity option with it... it became 1 DP.

As for all of its other weak point immunity options, they were all 1 DP. Cheap. Things like bat transformation and blood weapons that were the core ability

options for vampires were still expensive though.

Well, as a result of fiddling with the customization options—

“... It doesn’t have any kind of ability, it can’t fly, even though it has fangs they have no offensive power, but it has no weak points... a blood sucking... oni?”

It doesn’t really need to suck blood either. It wasn’t even a vampire at this point, it was fine just eating normal meat.

Moreover, its cost was around 15,000 DP even though it started out at 30,000 DP. About the same as a lesser vampire, oi. Well, it can’t fight at all... it’d be completely useless if it weren’t smart.

Though it was doubtful if it could still be called a vampire, let’s put this one on hold as a candidate.

“What about this silky thing? It looks like a house fairy!”

A silky. It would help with household things, a house fairy that you could say looked like a beautiful woman.

A beautiful woman, sounds good. Since they also weren’t that strong, they were at the reasonable price of 10,000 DP each.

“Then this one might also be good. It’s a [Zashiki Warashi]. 5,000 DP though.”

... Well... I’ll just have faith that at worst at least one of them will be smart enough to serve customers...

“Vampire, silky, witch, summon!”

The magic formation expanded towards the edges of the room with a low hum, stopping at around one meter in diameter.

Then, there were three girls. They appeared from the magic formation.

The easiest one to figure out was the freckled girl with brown hair that held a staff and wore a robe. She’s probably the witch. She looked like a normal girl. If she isn’t intelligent, she’s a lie.

Then next was one with green hair wearing thin maid clothes... she’s probably the silky. Maid clothes, it’s the silky. There’s no way that’s a vampire. At least she wasn’t transparent or anything.

The last one was a silver-haired girl in black bondage clothes. By elimination, she’s the vampire. I don’t know if she has wings or fangs though.

The three girls that were floating in the magic formation slowly stepped onto the ground.

The vampire, with her silvery hair that extended to her lower back fluttering, opened her eyes.

She looked at Rokuko and me with her bright red pupils that looked like rubies.

“How do you do, master...”

“She talked! She can talk!”

“We did it Kehma! She’s smart!”

“Eh, umm—”

Ooh, the vampire is puzzled! Evidence that she can think properly!

“How about you other two? Can you talk?”

“Eh? Ah, yes. Pleased to meet you, master.”

“I will serve you from here on. I am humbled to make your acquaintance, master.”

It looks like both the witch and the silky can talk as well. All of them. They’re all able to talk.

... I have no problem with their looks either, it’s a total win. We did it!

Temporary Names and Additional Rooms

The vampire hung her head.

She's grieving from heartbreak. Those are some amazing sobs. The thing that caused it was when she checked her own strength, she had pretty much none. She was at a level where she'd even lose to a goblin.

"T-this is... kuh—, I'm a vampire that's even weaker than a normal human... even weaker than a goblin...! A disgrace!"

She sat on the floor and beat her hands against it. But since her offensive power was 0 she didn't do anything.

The silky gently comforted her... motherly.

"... Moreover our master is a human... it certainly doesn't feel like he wants me to work as a monster, he made me weak in order to use me as his plaything!"

I had no such intentions! Still, I definitely won't be using you as a monster. Still, it'd be bad to leave things as they are. I'm a bit reluctant but let's invoke my absolute order rights. They're monsters, I'm their superior as the dungeon master.

"How about we begin the conversation now? It's an order."

""""Yes.""""

I waited for the three to gather.

'I want you to be inn employees.' She's just going to sit down again if I say that. I'm still going to say it though.

"First of all, I'm not going to be leaving the dungeon's defense to you all... You'll be inn employees."

"... An... inn?"

The vampire responded with a question in unease.

Well, if she's smart, she probably made the connection that I didn't intend for her to be use for battle since I summoned a monster without any offensive capability.

“Our dungeon manages an inn for humans. I wanted employees that would be able to serve them... Ah, you are candidates for management.”

The vampire looked like she was thinking about something, the silky was still calm and smiling, and the apprentice witch looks like she didn’t understand what I said that well... is she okay?

Just then, Ichika arrived from me calling her here a bit ago.

“Goshujin-sama~, you called me~”

“Oh, just in time. Come here, here.”

I called Ichika over to stand in front of the three.

“... This girl is Ichika. She’s my slave. She’s your senpai, so listen to what she says.”

“Y-yes? ... Eh? A human? Eh, and a slave...?”

“Certainly, I look forward to working with you senpai.”

“Ah~, really~?”

Looks like the vampire is hardheaded. The silky seems to be the best worker... What’s up with this apprentice witch? Really, huh?

... Even though all three of them are existences created from DP, there’s such big differences. Maybe it’s because of the racial differences?

“Best regards, ya three... Lessee, names?”

“... I’m a vampire. Nanashi (No Name).”

“I’m a silky. I am Nanashi (No Name).”

“I’m an apprentice witch~. My name’s Nanashi (No Name)~!”

“... So everyone’s a monster? I’d’ve thought ya were adventurers for sure.”

“Mm, come to think of it I haven’t given you all names huh.”

The three monster girls looked at me when I said that. Particularly, the vampire looked surprised.

“We’ll be named!?”

Named. Wonder what that means.

Is getting a name special or something? Let’s ask Rokuko.

“Nn? Riiight, it feels special. Masters only give a name to monsters when

they're promoting them, it's something special given when they've taken a lot of active roles... Gobsuke played an active part too you know?"

So Gobsuke was treated as a named monster huh... he did do something huge for us though.

"Well, I'll think about it. For now it'll be an internship. I'll give you all proper names if you do your work well... So for temporary names until then... the vampire is Alpha. The silky is Beta. The apprentice witch is Gamma. Sound good, you three?"

"""Yes!"""

"Such lazy names... It's easier than calling them all Nanashi (No Name) though."

I don't know how they were translated for Rokuko, but I'm thinking about making those our corps names if we get more in the future.

I used DP to get some of our inn's, the [Dancing Doll's Pavilion]'s uniform, [Maid Clothes], and handed them out to each of them... One for the silky too, just in case. I chose their sizes by eye.

"Well then Ichika. First make sure you teach them how to receive guests at reception."

"Roger that~. Well then, let's start with how to handle money~"

Ichika took the three monster girls with her.

Ichika could be a backup for the dining room if they learn how to work at reception... Maybe I should have Ichika learn [Storage]? Thinking about how much DP we have left, maybe I should convert the gold coins into DP?

For the time being, let's leave their training to Ichika. Ichika even properly knows her times tables, so she's probably enough to teach them... Alright, let's give those three monster girls names when they're able to leave reception duty. I'll just think about it till then.

"Come to think of it, Kehma. Are those three going to sleep in the inn as well? Or in the dungeon?"

"... I forgot. Good job noticing it Rokuko, as expected of my partner. Good girl."

"Hey—, I won't get happy or anything even if you pat my head, I'm not Meat you know! I'm not a child!"

What's this blonde-haired loli saying? You're still plenty a child.

Now then, a room for employees huh... Let's add some stuff.

Let's prepare it while Ichika teaches the newbies.

*

"Here will be you three's rooms."

Leading Rokuko and the three newbies, I went outside the hotel. Sideways from the entrance, near the dungeon.

"Sleeping in the open? Their bodies would probably be safe since they're monsters... but what's with that mask you have on?"

"No, making employees sleep outside would be a bit much. What I meant was, I'll make the rooms here."

This Narikin mask is to hide my identity for when I make it after this. There's a guild branch office on the other side of the inn, so it's an extra measure taken just so that we'd be safe even in the unlikely event they see... So please stop looking at me with such a pitying gaze, Rokuko.

"You would be willing to use DP for our sake? Thank you very much."

"Eh? That'd be wasteful. I summoned you guys since you were so economical you know."

"Eh—"

I began working on it right in front of Rokuko and the three monster girls. I'll make the passage to the inn first. Manipulating the raw materials with [Create Golem], I made holes to place the ordinary walls and rebuilt the path.

Then next up is the rooms... Although I thought about assembling it together all on site, I realized that I could just connect it to the inn by using the dungeon's teleport function if I made the hallways and rooms inside the dungeon to begin with. So I made the walls and roof beforehand.

In other words, I made it in a modular fashion. Like a space station.

Thus, I'd made the rooms in the dungeon while Ichika was teaching the three newbies. The interior? Each of their rooms are about two tatami mats big with a bed and cabinet. Of course, they were also made with [Create Golem]. Man, so convenient.

[Installing] the room modules with the dungeon's function, I used [Create Golem] to bond the materials together. Even though it's an add-on to the building, it looks like it was made to have it from the start... and done. It took about three minutes start to finish. Probably the fastest ever.

“... Alright, it’s perfect.”

I wonder if having the mask was pointless?
Like this, it looks like we won’t have to stop our operations with this modular system.

“Kehma is convenient as ever~... So, what is that mask?”
“The convenient thing is [Create Golem].”

Then again, it was a magic skill that was only able to make clay golems originally, I just modified the magic on my own thanks to the image I fostered in Japan and the automatic translation ability I got from Kami-sama. It’s probably not wrong to say I’m convenient I guess.

“Right now, I am Narikin. When I have this mask on, that’s who I am...”
“... ... Un. Got it.”

Ah, please stop. Please don’t look at me with eyes like you’re looking at a fanciful child.

Employee Training

By the way, although I extended the inn by using [Create Golem], it originally wouldn't be able to be used as conveniently as this since your magical power has to be spread across all of the raw materials used. However, since I built the hotel with [Create Golem] to start with you could just call it an [Inn Golem]. Remaking a golem that's filled with your own magical power is incredibly easy.

Well, none of the three girls have responded since a bit ago now. When I turned my head back to them, the apprentice witch (Gamma) was staring at me with starry eyes. The other two looked like their mouths were locked in the open position. In truth their mouths fell open from losing strength. I'd probably be like that too if I saw a building be added onto in three minutes.

I looked at them while waiting for their reactions. As expected, the apprentice witch (Gamma) was the first of the three of them to react.

“Amazing, master~! I’ll do anything, please be my teacher~!”

Hmm? Did she just say anything...? A girl shouldn't saying something like that so thoughtlessly.

“Even my body~! ... Ah, we’re master’s belongings originally anyway though~”

“... Umm, for now could you just work as a receptionist?”

“Thank you very much master~!”

... It’s somehow been decided that I’ll be her teacher.

I retreated a bit from her seriousness, but maybe I should tell Meat to rotate body pillow duties or something? It’s probably a burden for Meat to always be a hug pillow.

Well, even if I’m supposed to be her teacher, I only know one elementary class magic from each attribute and two middle class magic. Since I leave everything to Translation Function-san and don’t really know the chants that well, I don’t think I could teach her anything. On the other hand, ordering her to be on hug pillow duty would be like deceiving her with rolls of cash that’s really just rolled

up newspaper. Those aren't my principles.

Therefore, it's not a waste even if I can't order her to be on hug pillow duty. It's somehow not wasteful. It's fine since I didn't summon her for that purpose. I can't stop burdening Meat... still, I'll be careful so that she doesn't collapse.

When I was thinking about stuff like that, it looks like the other two finally rebooted.

"So master isn't an ordinary human... is he a monster that turned into a brilliant mage?"

"It seems there is more to clean..."

Oi, vampire (Alpha). I am an ordinary human. I'm also a dungeon master though.

Then there's the silky (Beta) whose whole existence is housework, her statement probably means cleaning without using life magic is her hobby? Those maid clothes she appeared with aren't just for show.

For now, I took the opportunity of adding more rooms to accomplish my goal of showing off my power as the dungeon master to the newbies. How about let's leave the rest to Ichika and sleep? I'll leave it to her unless there's some abnormality.

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Well, working at reception isn't all that hard.

Calculating the inn charges is the hardest thing. However, if it's just counting this much they can do it.

It's what even a Japanese elementary-schooler could do.

There was a time when I thought that too.

Not even being able to read or calculate numbers at the elementary school level is the normal for this world.

"Two and two..."

"Two times two is?"

"... Eight?"

"That's probably correct~! With this master will teach me magic~!"

"It's six, you two."

They're the three idiots.

Even though the answer is four... This vampire probably won't be able to remember the times table perfectly by treating it as an incantation.

"Hey, Goshujin-sama. How did ya memorize 'em?"

"... Un... the times table isn't popular..."

Right, the rhythm of it is probably different since the words are different. Rather, Meat and Ichika were good at memorizing it. Maybe it's unreasonable to force it?

"... I could calculate a bit at first, but the collar constricted if I didn't remember right, so I memorized it perfectly."

"Woa—, that's somehow... sorry... today you can eat as many curry rolls as you want."

"Ooh! That makes me happy~"

Meat can also have as many hamburgers as she wants.

Now then, that's what needs to be fixed for them to work at reception. Since they can fortunately read writing, they can read out the menu and verify costs. The problem is calculations.

"... Then maybe I'll make a calculator?"

Though I can get one by exchanging DP for a calculator or register, it'd probably be impossible to call it a magic tool. Since that's the case, there's no choice but to make a calculator so that won't cause problems being seen.

So I made one. It took five hours and ten minutes.

"This is an [Abacus]."

"How's it used?"

It looked different from the standard ones in Japan, it had a nine spheres per row to stress the importance of being comprehensible by people of this world. I made it with eight rows total. So long as it didn't exceed ten thousand gold coins, it could be computed.

Moreover, I made use of the thing known as a golem to make it look like a magic tool.

“What’s the price for five people’s lodgings, four D-Rank meals, and one C-Rank meal?”

“T-the spheres moved on their own...!? Six, five, zero... six hundred fifty copper coins!”

“This is amazing... it can be read as six silver coins and fifty copper coins.”

“Master is amazing~!”

It automatically computes using voice commands.

To breakdown the production time: ten minutes for the externals, five hours to train it to calculate things like lodging and meal prices.

While the three girls were engrossed with the abacus, Ichika spoke to me.

“Hey Goshujin-sama. Ya said to count the spheres, can’t it show the number directly?”

“Huh? Do you have an idea?”

“How ’bout this?”

When Ichika summarized her idea, it was to show digits that were painted on a column that rotated, like what a slot machine had... As expected of Ichika to think of something like that after going bankrupt by gambling. However—

“... What’re [Slots]?”

“Eh? Wait, you don’t know about slots?”

Looks like there’s no such thing as slots in this world... Which means she came up with that on her own. Oi. Is she a genius? She’s a genius?

“Slots are... right, you press a button to gamble on spinning images. If the images aren’t uniform you get nothing, if they are you win.”

“Heeeh! I wanna try it...”

Ichika smiled, spellbound by the thought. You’d probably think it was the face of a maiden that fell in love if you didn’t know she was smiling while thinking about slots. Does she like gambling that much?

...

Should I make it? Maybe it’d unexpectedly become a key feature of the inn... let’s sleep first. I even worked for five hours to make sure that golem could automatically compute things.

“For now, it looks like you all will be able to use this [Abacus], so please work at

the reception desk while using it. Make some number problems as well if you feel like it."

""""Yes!"""

All three of them responded well. Looks like our labor shortage is resolved with this.

The Phoenix

“Come to think of it, Kehma. Is the phoenix egg not hatched yet?”

Crap, I completely forgot.

“Y-yeah. Redra’s gradually getting better at not going into a reflexive egg smashing seizure when she sees eggs, so it’ll probably a good time. Let’s ask.”

“Heeh~. So it was something like that. It can’t be helped then.”

“Right, right. It couldn’t be helped.”

“... A~n~d~?”

“I forgot. Sorry.”

Grah, Rokuko’s been getting better at guessing recently. That used to be plenty to deceive her.

“... You’re my partner. I know Kehma’s thing(s) since I watch him.”

“What, my thing... stalker!?”

After seriously letting out her breath for thirty minutes straight, she finally rested... What marvelous stamina, as expected of a red dragon.

“I’ll treat you to some ice cream later.”

“[Ice Cream]? What’s that.”

“A sweet and cold treat. I don’t know if it’ll suit your tastes, but I think it’s delicious.”

“Heeh, this one will look forward to it! This one will keep going a little longer then! Fuuu, fuuu...”

She continued for another thirty minutes.

“Hmm? Oi, the egg moved, it’s starting to crack!”

“Oh, really? Then let’s enter the room soon.”

“Wait a few. You’ll need to take care, it’s amazingly hot in the room right now.”

“... Eh, about how hot is it?”

“Hmm, saying it a way that’s easy for a human to understand... about the same as inside a kiln. Guess it can burn meat?”

That's dangerous. But that meant she was emitting a super high temperature behind those doors?

Opening the entrance door to the boss room, we waited for it to cool down for a while. Meanwhile, there was a knocking sound coming from the inside of the egg as its crack grew... I wonder if it's fussing over how it goes about opening its egg? Very meticulous work. The crack being made was beautifully straight in the horizontal direction. It'll make it all the way around if it keeps going.

Let's ask if it's still no good for Rokuko, who was standing next to me, to head in."

"... Alright, should be good now."

When Ontentoo said that, Rokuko leapt into the room that was now cooled to be around as hot as an average sauna.

Hot air drafted in from the open door, it felt like it was enough to burn. Although I also entered the room slowly following Rokuko, the heat was painful to my bare skin.

"It's hot! Where's the egg! It's hot!"

"Oh, you came, Rokuko! It's here! It'll hatch soon!"

When Redra called out to her, the egg's crack was just a little away from going all the way around it.

*

Then, the phoenix hatched.

The chick was small, but it's feathers were white, like they were shining. I guess that's just the kind of bird it is and is born fully feathered.

"Hooh, a phoenix huh? It's wings don't look red though... think I heard somewhere that god's vanguard's pet is a blue phoenix?"

Blue huh? It's the color of perfect combustion. Rather, there's a phoenix like that too huh. Maybe its color changes to the color of the flames its bathed in when it's hatched or something?

"Heeey, I'm Feni's owner~, look at me~"

"Pi~!"

Feni, is that the phoenix's name? I said it when she named Gobsuke, but

Rokuko is pretty direct when it comes to names...

It flapped its wings when Rokuko called out to it. Though it doesn't seem to be able to fly yet, looks like it properly recognized its owner.

"By the way, isn't it too hot to touch?"

"It's probably safe. Phoenix flames aren't hot, they're magic after all. Its fire is the same as mine... It's also alright to eat since it has to use a skill to produce fire, bind it with an order before it's too late."

I see, so that's how it is. I followed Ontentoo's advice and ordered it to not attack comrades.

"Hey now, let me see. I also want to touch it."

"Eh, what do you want? To pluck its feathers this time?"

"Oi oi, what do you think I am?"

Pluck its feathers huh... a phoenix's feathers... that might also be good, but well, yeah. right now I just want to touch it. I reached my hand out towards Feni.

"Pi—!"

"Ada—!? Wai—, that hurts, that hurts!"

"Kehma, it doesn't like you."

It used its beak... maybe it remembers being destroyed over and over as an egg? Phoenixes are unexpectedly the type to hold grudges...

"Grah, I'll feed it then. Ontentoo, what do phoenixes eat?"

"They eat flames. Oi Redra, serve it some breath."

"Yeah! Step away a bit!"

Leaving Feni, Rokuko and I moved away before Redra fired off a serious breath... Even the aftermath from behind her feels hot.

"Pi pi~♪"

Feni was glad as it bathed in the breath. Kukuku, good, keep eating... huh? But isn't Redra the one feeding it now instead of me? Crap.

... Maybe I should practice a bit of fire magic?

Slots

Well then, our labor problem is over, Feni the phoenix has hatched, and we have a newly improved inn. The dungeon... is still fine. The riddle area is still peaceful after all.

And so, I thought about what the [Dancing Doll's Pavilion] is lacking in. I take pride in our food and sleep being at a level that can't be found anywhere else.

The reason to come to the inn is the dungeon. Then, in charge of healing is the onsen. It's a wonderful lineup.

... However, there's still one thing we lack.

Entertainment.

I'm not talking about an ero district. Though something like that might be necessary, I want to avoid that since there are children (lolis) here. The owner is the owner, and Haku-san said she'd kill me if I taught her something bad.

Well, as for what I want to add, some kind of game corner. Something common to onsen inns.

Though I really want to add table tennis now that I'm thinking about onsens, I decided to put it off since I wouldn't be able to prepare them without using DP for the ping-pong balls. It's only good to make it if it can be made with this world's materials.

So, a game corner huh... well, since there's no way I could install video games, looks like gambling's the best bet. First thing I'm going to make is slots. For the outside, there'll be indicator panels with spinning disks... what was it called again? A drum reel? I'll make them using golems and install a lever that powers the spin.

There wouldn't be much on the inside, just the spinning mechanism that would do its best to spin when the lever is lowered and make 'that' sound. It doesn't turn into rotational power directly, the lever would store up power like when you flick a finger, letting it all out when it gets lowered to a certain point.

As for judging when to stop spinning, that was the drum reel golem's job.

Furthermore, there would be a golem that gives money when it's a win. Even if someone disassembled it and asked how it worked, I could just say that I found suitable magic tools to do it. So convenient.

But for the drum reel, it would stop on its own when the rotation slows down, as well as when the button on the side is pressed. Then, it would just barely slip off of the grand prize if it almost landed on it. I'll be sure to have it occasionally land on it, but it feels like I'm just giving away my profits.

... Unfair? Fraud? This isn't a charity, this much is natural.

At any rate, I called Ichika up since I finished with the prototype. It's special, so let's leave the reception desk to the newbies. We probably won't get any visitors anyways.

"Well, this is a slot machine. Ichika, please give it a test play. Here's five hundred copper coins."

"Oooh! So this's slots huh! Leave it to me~, I'll pay ya back with double!"

Yep. Even if you doubled it, wouldn't the money just come from the dungeon's funds?

"I see I see, so ya put the coin into the hole and pull the lever..."

Kachink, kachink, kachink. She put three copper coins into it and lowered the lever.

Gyurin~. The drum reel spun vigorously.

"Oooh, it's turnin', it's turnin'! Eeeh, now... this button causes it to stop..."

Pochi, pochi, pochi. When she pressed the button, the drum reel stopped.

"Ooh~... Huh, what's this mean?"

"It's a loss. Try again."

"Nn, got it~"

Putting more copper coins into it, Ichika gave it another shot. Hmm, it feels a bit plain, maybe I should've put more thought into its production?

*

"Uoooooooooh! Go, go, gooooo n' get it! —! Aaaah~! Almost!!"

One hour later. Getting small wins over and over, she'd exceeded her starting

funds of five hundred coins just once, but now she was down to fifty coins left. She was going nuts with a force that might be able to destroy the slot machine. Guess I don't need to work more on its production huh, let's add more if she gets tired of it.

... Ah, maybe I should make its main body out of iron? Ichika's clinging onto it hard enough for it to creak.

"Ichika. You should start finishing up."

"B-but! I-I still have money left! I-I'll definitely make a turnaround now! Check it out, y'see how it was just about to hit the thousand copper grand prize? I'll get it next go!"

Yeah, she's a no good woman. A typical no good human that spends their money on gambling despite going in to debt because of gambling. Pretty hardcore to not learn from her mistakes even though she fell into slavery.

"Yep, it's unfortunate but that's impossible. I made it so that it's not possible."
"Wha... t...?"

Ichika hung her head down with a face full of despair. Yep, I didn't think that I'd see such a horrible face over something like four hundred fifty-six copper.

"... In practice it shouldn't be so obvious, I'll have to adjust it a bit more. That was helpful, thanks."

"Kuh—... I was gettin' played... on Goshujin-sama's palm...? Daaaaaaaaamn...!"

"Don't worry, you don't have to pay back the money you borrowed. I'd like for you to return the remainder though."

"Aaah~...! Kuh—, i-it can't be helped...—"

Still, that's an amazing fit. Ichika might be a bit of a special case, but I'll prepare around three of these. It should be fine to put them into the newly built game room.

However, having just slot machines in the game room might feel dull. Maybe I'll make some other things too?

"Come to think of it, what other kinds of gambling is there?"

"Nnn~, ya know about dice? The hero made these box things, their faces're numbered one to six... it's common to use 'em."

I see. So dice huh? It'd be easy to produce them too. Incidentally, though I asked if there were playing cards, they aren't made here because of poor printing techniques and paper quality in this world. There does seem to be something like metallic plates though... they seem pretty rare and expensive though. They don't appear to be that popular.

"Basically, all of those are be games of chance. Any that focus on strategy?"
"There's the arena... and horse racing too."

Fumu, that'd be hard for us to reproduce... no, wait a second. Maybe we could race the rats? It might be a good idea to use all of those leftover rats as subordinates. Nowadays they've just been acting as surveillance cameras around the dungeon.

... Ah, but maybe it'd be hard to hold a race with our current amount of guests? Let's put that one on hold.

In this world with little in the way of entertainment, we might become popular if we mass-produced some proper playing cards. Actually, maybe it'd make a good dungeon drop? I already said that we got the massage chair from the dungeon. I'll say the same for the slot machines.

Alright, let's put some playing cards in treasure chests. They'll have to spread around to get popular after all. So, its appearance should be fine if I say that I found it in the dungeon and put it in the game room.
I also set up a table with felt stuck to its top, making it into something that gave the feeling of being something to play on.

Blacksmith Flag

Recently it feels like I've been working nonstop. Even adjusting the slot machine has been hard
I've been making the game room too, maybe I should rest today? Well, let's just sleep today away.
That thought was like painting a target on myself.

"Kehma, the iron golem that wandered around the labyrinth area was destroyed."

Rokuko reported something about the dungeon.
Iron golems. As their name says, they are golems whose bodies are made from iron. For the levels that come to our dungeon... D-Rank, even C-Rank adventurers would have a hard time against it.
Furthermore, unlike normal clay golems, its body itself has value. Because it's iron. Although its heavy, thinking of it as a resource, a lump of iron the size of a person is a pretty valuable thing. I wonder how many nails you could make from one?

"What kind of people defeated it? People that are in the dungeon right now... ah, there was that one C-Rank party huh. Those guys?"

"Right, I think it was Gozoh or something, maybe? A dwarf that uses a hammer! He usually hits them with his hammer and doesn't break the magic stones."

That so? So he's dispersing the magical power by the impact huh. Good, it wasn't something like the iron golem being slashed to death. If someone like that showed up, I don't think I could deal with him right now.

"If that's the case there's no reason to worry. Probably. Did he take the iron golem's remains?"

"Yeah. He's carrying it out now. He doesn't have Storage~"

A C-Rank probably wouldn't be able to handle an opponent like the iron golem. If they could, it'd probably be easy money.

"Incidentally, how are the cards going?"

“Although I’ve been deploying them little by little on the first floor, people are calling them misses. Like ordinary bundles of paper. It seems like they’re troubled since the guild doesn’t handle them.”

“... Then start saying you’ll purchase them for five copper.”

“Kehma should say it himself! I’m the owner.”

Should I have put in a memo on how to play it as well...? No, it’s already strange that playing cards are appearing, it’d be even more so if a dungeon also gave a memo on how to play.

If it got too strange, god’s vanguard (the hero) will zero in on us.

Since playing cards are themselves things that god’s vanguard (the hero) brought in the past, it’s still somehow at the level of being able to deceive people.

“Oh, maybe we should put out some dice too? Made from wood or bone.”

“Somehow it feels like our dungeon is being eroded by gambling...”

Well, we did become the [Cave of Desires] after all.

... Maybe I could send out bedding too? As expected, putting out sweet rolls is a no go.

But really, an iron golem was destroyed huh... then beyond the riddle area, it’d probably be bad if I don’t prepare a stronger monster. Let’s look for something.

... It says there’s something like a gargoyle? Eh, how’s that different from a golem?

*

The next day, the guild’s Receptionist-san came. I’m told there’s an important matter...

Didn’t you get to know her, Rokuko? I used my absolute command rights to have her say she’ll leave it to me.

Well, with Rokuko in smile mode, we spoke with her in the parlor.

“Huh? A smithy?”

“Yes. A smithy. Although it would be at a spot a little separated from the inn and adventurer guild since it is noisy, this branch is scheduled to be turned into the same thing as the adventurer guild to begin with. Just in case, shall I tell you more about it?”

“Haah, why so suddenly?”

“The other day, an adventurer carried out materials from an iron golem... I think you know this, but the iron golem’s body has been verified.”

According to her story, it seems that iron golem areas are treated the same as mines. Looks like it’s called something like quasi-mines or golem mines. Indeed, there are huge resources in there. Moreover, the iron golems’ bodies are entirely made of iron and was at the level of being able to be used as materials for blacksmiths. With that, it turned into: ‘Let’s build a smithy here.’

They planned to build the branch office in order to regulate equipment extracted by adventurers or something. I don’t wanna hear it! Ah, even though I said that...

“A mine huh, will this place show up on maps then?”

“Maps? It has already been recorded. It’s been there since the branch office finished.”

“Wait, do dungeons not get recorded onto maps?”

“The reason dungeons do not have their positions recorded onto maps is so that people cannot go to them without permission after all. There’s also no reason to conceal a dungeon that has a guild branch at its entrance either. Rather, it becomes quite the publicity.”

... Woah, I might’ve made a big mistake.

God’s vanguard might suddenly come here if it’s on a map... ah, but since god’s vanguard is a compulsory S-Rank hero to begin with maybe it’ll be irrelevant? At any rate I can see what needs to be done. Need to stop our popularity from rising.

“I heard from the guild head that he’s been planning on turning this place into a village since learning about the magic sword.”

“... No way.”

He was being serious when he said that?

There’s a chance I made a mistake from the start... it’s no use even if I said something now huh?

“Will you listen since this is a special opportunity? Although this inn has a dining room now, are there plans to build a bar as well?”

“Yeah, as long as it’s built away from here it’s fine. We don’t serve alcohol.”

I wouldn’t be able to sleep if people were getting drunk and making a ton of noise in the inn. That’d be annoying.

“Then we will advance those plans. We might also build other various facilities. Since there is also balance to take into account, we will come to consult with you each time over the construction’s location.”

“That’s a big help.”

... The plan’s getting huge, but it’s probably fine if the guild does all of the troublesome things.

Either way, the whole area around here is the dungeon’s territory after all.

“... By the way, I’ve wanted to ask something.”

“Hmm? What is it?”

“... When was that building added on? I don’t think I noticed it being added?”

“Haku-san’s mage acquaintance turned up and did it.”

“Ah, an A-Rank adventurer... an A-Rank adventurer’s acquaintance did...”

Both Receptionist-san and I nodded with a, ‘Un un.’

Since Haku-san’s acquainted with me, it’s not wrong.

“Ah, and the people at reception and in the dining room are different. No, until now they’ve been the same people as always... they were slaves, did you exchange them away?”

“No, they’re resting. Since it’s gotten to the point that we’re getting more guests and work to do every day, they were introduced by the owner’s connections.”

The dungeon’s DP exchange is the owner’s connection. It’s not a lie.

... Since the adventurer guild has lie detecting magic tools, I need to be careful of what I say just in case. It’s really troublesome.

“Is that so... Let me know if you decide to sell her. I wouldn’t do anything bad.”

“Hahaha, unfortunately, I don’t feel like letting go of them.”

While I talked with her for now, I told her that I just didn’t feel like parting with them.

Receptionist-san, you’re pretty obstinate when it comes to slaves as ever huh. It’s unfortunate that you’re a beauty. But you really do have great legs though...

The Blacksmith's Arrival

“Ooh, Gozoh! Thanks for calling me. Is Roppu doing well?”
“Kantra! You’ve come! Aye, full of energy as usual.”

Inside the small guild branch, there were two bearded dwarf ossans. Gozoh was the C-Rank adventurer that defeated the iron golem to collect its iron. Then this new person, Kantra, is probably the blacksmith. To make a magic sword, after seeing that this dungeon somehow produced good quality iron golems, Gozoh called over his blacksmith acquaintance. Furthermore, after he defeated that iron golem, he went on to defeat two more. Looks like he decided to do that after determining that this dungeon produced iron golems at fixed intervals.

Because of that, he was confident when calling over his blacksmith acquaintance.

“With that, Kehma. This is Kantra. Take care of him.”
“Ah—yes... I look forward to working with you?”
“My regards, Kehma-dono.”

Why am I here for these two’s reunion? He caught me leaving from the dungeon together with Meat when we were wearing equipment in order to make it look like we were adventurers, bringing us to the guild.

“... So, why am I here?”
“Kehma is the [Dancing Doll’s Pavilion]’s owner’s secretary, essentially number two aye?”
“I heard from Gozoh that yer the [Cave of Desires] dungeon’s top capture person.”

To put it simply, limited to this dungeon, I’m a person of influence I guess? Well, I’m really just the dungeon master though. To be the big fish in the pond is a bit...

“That’s why I want to make a smithy a bit away. I don’t know when I’ll be able

to make it, but if it's something like weapon maintenance I can do it immediately, Kehma-dono. Ah, right. As a token of gratitude for our acquaintanceship, may I perform some maintenance on that sword hanging at your waist? It would be free of charge of course."

"Free huh? Then, please."

I passed him the sheathed magic sword blade golem.

"... N...? Is this a magic sword?"

"How'd you know?"

"Because I'm a blacksmith. It's my dream to create a magic sword myself one day. I heard that there were magic swords coming from this dungeon, but it's a good sign that I could hold one in my hands so soon."

"Yeah. According to my guess, that sword was obtained from this dungeon. Will you show how to go about maintaining a magic sword?"

"The fundamentals for magic swords aren't different from normal swords. As for whether the blade could be made from water and fire, I dare say that is something else entirely... hmm, this sword doesn't particularly need any repairs. I mean, it is closer to say it hasn't been used at all?"

... Geh, busted. As expected of a blacksmith. This guy can speak to swords... well, it's a golem though.

"I am a mage after all. The sword is essentially unnecessary."

"That's a shame. However, it can't be helped then, I'll return it... What about that small one there?"

"That's my vanguard. Ah, could you maintain her sword instead?"

"Aye, leave it to me."

When I said that, Meat, who had been waiting next to me so far, handed him her favorite golem knife.

"... Heeh, this one's a magic sword too? Moreover it looks like it's been used well. It's more or less been tended too, looks like it has a good owner."

Kantra grinned at Meat, who was smiling broadly.

This bearded old man feels pretty good natured... well, I don't know his actual age though. Looking at it another way, it's possible that he's just a agreeable young man.

But where did Meat learn to maintain it? Maybe Ichika taught her.

“Well then I’ll give it maintenance here. I can only do a quick one though since I don’t have any equipment here though.”

With that, he took out a grindstone right there and began to polish the sword. Moving it nimbly, he held the blade up and looked at it from the side before bringing it back to the whetstone to polish it again... This was repeated several times.

Eventually, Kantra nodded approvingly while looking at the sword.

“There, now it’s plenty sharpened. Then, to finish, [Revitalize]... Ah, good. There we go.”

“Hm? Just now, was that the life magic’s [Revitalize]? Not earth magic’s [Sharpen]?”

Ichika taught me about it before, but [Revitalize] should be the life magic that causes a slight improvement in crop production by making the soil fill with vigor. [Sharpen] is a low class earth magic that improves something’s sharpness the first few times it’s used on it.

That’s why I thought he’d use [Sharpen] on it for the finishing touch.

“Aye. [Revitalize] invigorates the ground... then, wouldn’t it invigorate swords? They come from the ground.”

... I didn’t think about that. Certainly, minerals are in soil, in other words the ground. In other words, it’s a kind of soil.

No way... to fall behind in magic conceptualization...

“Also, blacksmiths that use [Sharpen] are second rates, magic is a cheat for unskilled maintenance. I may use it if asked since I’m also a blacksmith, but I won’t like it that much. I think using magic when you need to heat something up on-site is alright though.”

“Kantra’s [Revitalize] is something like a good luck charm though. I haven’t seen any other blacksmith use it.”

“That’s rude, Gozoh. This is a method that’s been handed down from generation to generation after all. My swords really last longer and are sharper than other blacksmith’s aye?”

“Hahaha, that’s because of your skill! Even if that charm has an effect, it’d be

small. More like, it's not like swords will get better even if they're invigorated. It's not like they'd go and start cutting things on their own."

"Come on now, swords are alive! If Gozoh's a dwarf too, you should also have some love for your equipment..."

Come to think of it, a magic's effect changes depending on the image. Then, it's probably better to think that it really does get invigorated by [Revitalize] when you think about invigorating a sword.

Perhaps it'd turn into something like recovery magic when it's used on a golem? Let's try it out next time.

"Ah, our chat went off track, sorry. Well with those reasons, please let me have a smithy here. Although there'll probably be a lot of orders for armor from adventurers, I can also make nails, tableware, and other things for daily necessities."

Ah, that so? Although there was the image where he'd only be able to make equipment like a blacksmith from a game, in reality they can also make other merchandise.

"Understood, I'll request something if we need it."

"Leave it to me... it what I want to say. First I need a smithy, a blacksmith without a furnace is horrible and out of the question. I'm planning on making a simple one, but it'll take around two or three weeks."

Fumu. That's quite a while.

"What do you need to make a furnace?"

"Hmm? Bricks filled with strong materials that can resist the fire. I got a hold of a lot of cheap red lizard scales and bones a little while back, so I thought about using that."

Oops, the fantasy crept its way back in. Right, so make it from heat-resistant materials.

... Come to think of it, I have a lot of phoenix eggshells left over. Those would probably work out fine, can't they resist even a dragon's flame?

I took out an eggshell and handed it to Kantra.

"Then as advance payment, take this. You could probably use it if you need something that can withstand heat."

“Is this an eggshell? From the looks of it... yeah, fire attributed. The eggs of fire attributed monsters become considerably good materials. With this it’ll be a proper furnace. I’ll gladly accept it.”

“Yeah, so in exchange I’ll order... right, when Kantra makes a magic sword, give me one.”

“Oi oi Kehma, isn’t a magic sword beyond overcharging for a single eggshell?”

“Hahaha, I don’t mind. I’ll be indebted to Kehma-dono after this, so how about I present him one when I can make them?”

Kantra. A pretty down-to-earth guy.

I don’t know how much an eggshell can do, but I want to help him achieve his goal of making a magic sword himself.

Extra: Blacksmith 1 (Gozoh's Point of View)

I am Gozoh, a dwarf C-Rank adventurer.

Recently, I dove into the [Ordinary Cave]... changed into the [Cave of Desires]. Before, it was a shabby dungeon for F-Ranks to enter... no, to begin with, it was more of an ordinary cave than a dungeon. At any rate, there was only one path and one room. And now it's an excellent dungeon.

Although it seems to be confirmed that it has up to four floors, I've only reached to the third floor so far.

Anyhow, it doesn't look like you can advance to the fourth floor unless you return to the stairs, it's something complicated that I don't really get... Well, although I have a special skill that lets me remember paths I've taken before, it just doesn't work in this labyrinth at all.

Places that I had definitely passed just before would become a wall, so recently I've been doubting my special skill.

Well, rather than a skill bestowed by god, it's just a normal special skill. There are things like that though.

I leave the minor stuff to my companion Roppu, so today I'm just swinging my battle hammer.

“Stay down!”

With a dull thud, a lump of heavy iron clashed against my companion's shield, resounding through the labyrinth.

Our opponent was something recently found out to appear in the [Cave of Desires], an iron golem. Although they had been seen before, unfortunately, it was too much a burden for D-Ranks and E-Ranks. It was something pretty hard to carry out unless you brought a cart, since you could encounter enemies while trying to do so.

Most of all, these guys are worth quite a bit of money when they're defeated, so for me it's a delicious opponent. I just have to beat it up with my hammer, a truly simple and easy to understand enemy. Yep, a delicious opponent.

Hitting its head several times with my battle hammer, the iron golem was

defeated... Oooh, my hand is tingling. This feeling ain't that bad, kind of that that numb feeling you get in your hands when drinking sake.

"Booyah, beat it! Seriously, finding the magic stone when it's buried like that's troublesome."

"Good work, Gozoh. Let's put it in the cart. Looks like there aren't any enemies near us now."

Roppu pulled the rumbling cart. This partner of mine is a human woman. She looks slender, but she's a C-Rank adventurer like me. She's also my good drinking buddy. It was a chance meeting that I met this girl when she went to drink at a dwarf village.

Ah, stuff like that doesn't matter right now. I put down my hammer temporarily and helped put the iron golem into Roppu's carrier. As expected of a human-sized lump of iron, it's really heavy.

"Well then, should we head back?"

"Aye."

Although I really wanted to hunt two or three of them in one go, Roppu's carrier wouldn't be able to hold them unfortunately.

We have to go up and down the stairs several times to start with, making us defenseless each time. It's best to hunt them one at a time taking safety into account. It'd be great if Roppu knew [Storage]. That way we'd be able to get a lot of them all at once.

On the return trip while looking out for traps, we kept killing goblins that tried to attack us. We were able to take back a lump of iron today as well. We'll have a few days of inn fees with this.

"Well, maybe we should live as miners for this dungeon?"

"I don't want to though, Gozoh. There isn't a pub here. The food is incredibly delicious, but there's no way to get any alcohol."

Yeah, that's right.

This [Cave of Desires] has an inn near it, the [Dancing Doll's Pavilion]. Rather, there's only an inn and guild branch office here... Well, just that inn is incredible enough. It even has an onsen. It feels greaaat, enough to make you feel like a noble. I didn't think I'd like it so much before, but now it's a necessity.

For some reason, [Dancing Doll's Pavilion] doesn't serve alcohol. It does seem to use it for cooking though... Its food definitely is amazing and it has top quality beds. Excuse me for saying this again. It even has an onsen.

—It'd be supreme if it had alcohol!

Well, since it doesn't prohibit it till the point of keeping you from bringing your own, you can get some from traders coming through the path... Rather, what's up with [Great Tsuia Mountain Tunnel]?

That dungeon is also... a new dungeon with an unclear difficulty. That is, in the meaning that it isn't seen as a danger.

Although new dungeons were occasionally short dungeons, this was the first time one has appeared with absolutely no danger. Even [Ordinary Cave] had goblins.

No one knows what kind of mechanism is used, but you can pass to the other side by paying money in the booth that's there immediately after you enter. As for its interior, it's about wide enough for two wagons to pass each other, there's even a convenient rest area midway through. I hear that some people are suspicious about it, but it looks like there hasn't been any problems so far.

Merchants going in with guards can be seen going in and out of it a lot recently. Thanks to that, Pavuera's sake and salt can be bought cheaply even in Sia. I'm thankful for that.

From a merchant's point of view, the money paid to the tunnel seems insignificant.

“Aah, sake really is the best though.”

“Sake while soaking in the onsen, that would be supreme...”

“Ask that Kehma guy, maybe he'd stock some alcohol...”

“Ah, I'd gladly use my body if I could drink sake there.”

“Please stop... Besides, you know Kehma's preference, aye?”

“Right... he had that sex slave (Meat) huh... to like such a small kid...”

Even that guy's a good adventurer if you closed your eyes to him preferring children...

No, let's stop there. I don't feel like talking about someone's tastes. Besides, he takes good care of that Ojou-chan, she looks happy. It'd be thoughtless for me

to butt my head in.

Well, while we took a rest and complained like that, the receptionist Silia-chan showed up.

“Gozoh-san. Could I have a moment? A letter arrived from Kantra-san a little ago.”

“Ooh! Kantra huh, should be a good answer.”

“The thing about the blacksmith? I also want to hear the result.”

“Aye, let’s take a look. Give me a second.”

So, receiving the letter from Silia-chan, I immediately opened and read it.

“He’s coming immediately! It’s great, Silia-chan!”

“That’s good... Ah, we still need to call over a carpenter. And consult with [Dancing Doll’s Pavilion]’s Rokuko-san about the matter regarding the smithy...”

Yeah, Silia-chan looks busy. I think it’d be fine if she relaxed a bit more though.

“Is Kantra-san doing well?”

“Hmm? Yeah, he is. His old man too.”

“If Untara-san wasn’t in good health, Kantra-san wouldn’t have time to come here.”

“That’s right too huh?”

I nodded to Roppu’s question.

Still, to finally see him after all this time. I should get some alcohol ready...

Extra: Blacksmith 2 (Gozoh's Point of View)

Several days later.

“Ooh, Gozoh! Thanks for calling me. Is Roppu doing well?”

“Kantra! You’ve come! Aye, full of energy as usual.”

Reuniting with my friend again after such a long time, I hugged him.

Oops, almost forgot. I need to be introducing him to Kehma, who I captured on his way out of the dungeon a bit ago.

Kehma took up residence next to this dungeon, [Cave of Desires], someone who’d absolutely never leave.

At any rate, he’s the secretary of [Dancing Doll’s Pavilion]’s owner, as well as the unmatched top capturer of [Cave of Desires].

There are two parties that have gone to the fourth floor, but one of those is this Kehma.

Everyone in his party are slaves. Well, that’s often the case, but Kehma’s party’s two slaves are cheerful and lively, so I’d be a bit careless to call it something usual.

It isn’t that usual at all.

Well, he does have the slaves work at the inn, but it’s easy to understand they’re well off there as well.

“With that, Kehma. This is Kantra. Take care of him.”

“Ah—yes...”

Like that, the meeting between Kehma and Kantra finished.

Or rather, he was a mage huh? I thought he was a swordsman judging by that magic sword at his waist.

Heh. After this is the reunion-required bout of drinks, but Kehma headed back without hanging out with us. What a cold guy. The only thing he left was that eggshell he gave to Kantra. It seems like it’ll become material for the furnace.

“So it’s a fire attributed eggshell, what kind of egg is it?”

“Ah, I was so excited I forgot to ask... Even taking a good look I don’t know.”

“Hmmm, but just one of them eh...”

“Oi oi. Monster eggs are wonderfully rare materials. Kehma-dono must have gone to great lengths to acquire this!”

“That so?”

With so many monsters around here, I don’t think it’d be that weird to just casually pick up a fire attributed monster’s eggshells though...

“Then why haven’t I seen any eggshell collection commissions?”

“Now that’s because it’s such a rare material that it’s out of the question for B-Ranks to get a hold of on ordinary commissions. Gozoh, you’re C-Rank aye?”

“Seriously? Woah...”

Why’s it so hard? Even though it’s just an eggshell.

“Gozoh. Have you seen any monster children in a dungeon?”

“Eh? What are you... oh, I haven’t. Right.”

Thinking about it, I’ve only ever seen adult monsters in dungeons. As for monster children... I’ve seen them, but only outside of dungeons.

“It’s not known why, but monster children are rare. Although worm-types and a few others are exceptions, it’s true that you won’t see childish bodies that have no fighting strength in a dungeon at all. Well, there’s no use questioning that the parents would have superior materials, but... their eggs are the exception. Furthermore, monsters birthed by eggs eat their eggshells shortly after birth.”

“Eeh, woah. So that was it? I didn’t know.”

“Parents fill the eggshells with power for the sake of their children. In other words, it could be called crystallized power. It’s said that monsters can obtain their first divine protection by ingesting this... well, that’s how it is.”

“So there was something like that... hmm?”

Huh? Then how did he get the eggshell?

If they gobble it down as soon as they’re born, there shouldn’t be anything left over.

“In other words, it’s necessary to find a monster’s egg somewhere. Then you have to somehow deal with the monster’s parents. The parents would struggle to the death to defend their children.”

“Indeed, that’d be hard.”

Honestly, it’s not unthinkable that parents would show strength to defend their children. Both people and monsters. They’d probably raise one or two ranks doing it.

“Moreover, isn’t Kehma-dono still at a low rank? It depends on the opposing monster, but even getting lucky this is quite a rare material. To hand it over so willingly, I can give him a magic sword when I can make one. That guy’s important. Kukku.”

Kantra laughed.

*

Then, the next day.

“Holy shit. Kehma-dono... holy shit. He’s beyond important.”
“Wh-what is it!? Oi, Kantra!”

When I woke up, Kantra’s face was pale and he was trembling.

After the drinking bout yesterday while we gazed at the stars, we made plans to construct the smithy today and I fell asleep right there. Ah, I brought along several [Potato Aburaage] I ordered from Kehma. It’s crunchy texture feels great and its saltiness would definitely work great with sake. A delicious dish. But why would Kantra wake up like that so afraid of Kehma...? Ah—!

“Was something wrong with the aburaage!?”
“Why’re you talking about that!? Well, it was delicious though!”

Mu, so that wasn’t it? I do think it makes for a great snack even without having sake though.

“So then what’s the matter?”
“... Remember the eggshell?”
“Huh? What about it?”
“That eggshell, it’s from a phoenix...”

A phoenix... I’ve heard those being subjugation targets for B-Rank commissions. Oi, this is serious.

“... That’s... in other words, that, right? A ridiculously rare material? Am I

right?"

"Yeah, there's no doubting it since it was examined using magic tools that can find out a material's name. Honestly, this shell is on a legend-grade rare item... Kehma-dono, where in the world did you..."

Legend-class, that's incredible... It looks like it could turn into the highest class of furnace if it's mixed into bricks. As a material that any blacksmith would water at the mouth over, even one hundred gold coins would be a foolish offer. Seriously, oi. Wouldn't that be enough to drink as much sake as you wanted till your death?

"So, what'll you do? That shell. Give it back?"

"... I'll use it. I already promised to accept it. I just don't understand why Kehma-dono would give me something like this for a magic sword. Or rather, to build a furnace with such a rare material... I truly never even dreamed of it... this is a first."

To make a magic sword, that concept is often treated as something impossible. Currently, from what I hear even the top researchers in the imperial capital are just barely at the point where they'd say: "It's somehow a magic sword... I think?" ... For a blacksmith like Kantra to make it by himself? That'd surely be something impossible. Originally.

"... Sounds like drunken talk doesn't it? For a mere blacksmith, making a magic sword..."

"Yeah... Alright then, well, there's nothing to it but to give it a go. Perhaps, with this shell, I might be able to make a magic sword."

Did he calm down from speaking with me? Kantra was already looking like a full-fledged blacksmith.

"Looking at it another way, this is a good chance to realize my dreams. Aren't there magic swords in this dungeon? They'd be good examples to work off of. Gozoh, for collecting the materials, could I get your help?"

"Aye, for the time being I can capture iron golems here."

Looking at Kantra's straightforward eyes, I decided to give him my support. ... How should I put it, I really can't read that Kehma... There's no way he's just some ordinary guy...

The Game Room

Now then, with the smithy's construction started, we also pushed forward our preparations, finishing the game room.

Though I call it that, it had slots, dice, and other things I put in the dungeon chests a few days ago. Furthermore, the inn even started buying the playing cards for five coppers.

... The tables were prepared with cloth coverings for the dice and playing cards, just a bare minimum to be acceptable rentals. We also let people bring in their own dice and cards.

If someone asked why it took so long even though that's all there was, I also soundproofed the walls so that it wouldn't obstruct the guests' (and my) sleep, adjusted the slots, and developed dice golems for some trickery business. Well, let's take a look at them one by one.

Soundproof walls are obvious. For now I just put some sponge that I bought with DP inside the walls and that seems to have done it one way or another. Although it feels like the walls' thickness increased a bit, they're still within acceptable levels.

Adjusting the slots in various ways, I made them rarely be big wins and lose sufficiently. Naturally, it's at the point that the owner wins when looking at the whole.

For the dice golems, they're insurance for when I use them. When you fill them with magical power, you can make their center of gravity be biased for just ten seconds. After ten seconds, they're ordinary dice.

Their material is transparent crystal. Since they're filled with oil that has the same refractive index, you can't see their internal structure at all. Getting that right gave me a really hard time.

If people could see it and found out, they'd say something like, "Isn't this fraud?" Well, it really is though. There's a famous saying that it isn't fraud if the fraud isn't exposed.

Moreover, they use individual identification through magical power so that other

people can't use them. Golems can distinguish between magical powers. That mechanism can't be used for dungeon keys or anything though.

With all that, I added on the game room. Stealthily, in the dead of night. Since I wasn't able to sleep through the night and added on to the inn it can't be helped that I'm lacking sleep. I've only slept nine hours today.

"I've been wondering for a while now, but how much sleep per day would satisfy Kehma?"

"I wonder... I guess twenty-five hours would be best."

Still, the world also only had twenty-four hours in a day.

"... Can you use space-time-type magic?"

Woah, space-time-type magic reigns supreme. Should I look into it? I'd never have enough DP for it though.

Then, setting aside that farce, I unveiled the game room.

Our inn's frequent guest, Gozoh, arrived immediately. He's the first guest to commemorate its opening.

"... Was this here yesterday?"

"Ah, an A-Rank adventurer's mage acquaintance made it overnight."

"Hooh... It would've been great if he took the chance to make Kantra's smithy too while he was at it."

"The commission fee is pretty high. It's better to make it normally."

Moreover, the construction had already started, it's better to not deprive Carpenter-san of his job.

Moreover, I don't want to do any extra work. I don't want to work. I don't wanna work!

"Oi Kehma, what's this? A room to chat in?"

"No, it's a game room. You play dice and cards at those tables. Well, this box is —"

"And sloooooots!"

Ichika ran past me in the middle of my explanation.

Incidentally, I raised Ichika and Meat's wages. It's something more like pocket money though.

I give them money that's simple to understand, and if they want something I'd buy it with DP. Ichika's basis of food is disappearing. No, it disappeared. As for why that's past tense, recently Ichika has been waiting for the game room to open, saving up for her slots campaign fund.

"Hyahha—! Put three copper in! Next, lower the lever! Spin, spin spin—! Ahahahaha! Button, button, push the button! Stop! Tch, one more tiiime~!"

Her eyes are scary. Fanatical.

Yep, ban the slots... is it already too late?"

"H-hey, Kehma? That, is it safe? It's not a dangerous box?"

"... It's a slot machine, for gambling."

Ichika was pulling the slot machine's lever with all she had, totally addicted. Aren't guests supposed to be doing that?

... Well, I'll let it be.

"... Changing topics, do you play cards? There aren't any cards, I'll play with you."

"Hmm? These have been appearing in the dungeon recently. I heard you'd been buying them, but they were for this huh? Please teach me the rules.

I taught Gozoh how to play poker and blackjack.

Because the rules were easy to get, it seemed he liked blackjack.

"If there were enough people we could play old maid or sevens too."

"Ugugugu, my slot machine..."

And so, Ichika, who'd tried to monopolize the slot machine despite being an employee, was now taking a break.

Even though she hit the grand prize, she finished at a plus-minus of zero when all was said and done. People are surrounding it now too. At any rate, it doesn't look like it'll open up any time soon. It wouldn't be good for an employee to occupy it when it's crowded like that.

"... The slot machine looks popular huh. Maybe I should make another?"

"Goshujin-sama! Then definitely, a slot machine for my personal use...!"

Yup, Ichika's recovered a bit of her true character hasn't she?

Credits

Author — Supana Onikage

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